



**NELSON W. WOLFF**  
**COUNTY JUDGE**  
BEXAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78205-3042  
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February 12, 2009

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
United States Representative, District 21  
2409 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

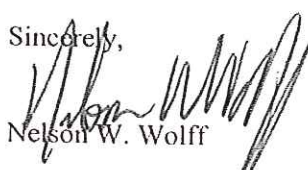
Bexar County Commissioners Court is committed to preserving the historic Bexar County Courthouse in accordance with the standards established by the Secretary of the Interior and the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer.

The best preservation includes keeping a building useful and relevant to modern functions. Consequently, as we have restored various parts of this largest of Texas historic courthouses during the past five years, we have also upgraded HV/AC, electrical and plumbing systems and installed state-of-the-art technology in courtrooms. The Childrens Abuse and Neglect Courts inside the historic building enjoy the designation of being the "Model for the Nation" due to their technologically advanced evidence presentation systems, video conferencing and other features which have been funded through private donations, county and state funds. Judges and courts staff from across the nation and internally have visited our Childrens Courts and returned to their homes to make improvements they have learned from Bexar County.

To further advance the relevance of this beloved national landmark, we seek to weatherize the building and add electronic controls for our upgraded HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) systems. This would enable us to set another standard for the state and region in the areas of energy conservation and indoor air quality, and continue our efforts to keep the historic building useful and relevant to modern functions.

Thank you for your leadership on these issues. It is not lost on us that your great, great grandfather was the original architect for our historic Courthouse. We, and all who enjoy the restored building, continue to marvel at his visionary design.

Sincerely,

  
Nelson W. Wolff

NWW/ccs